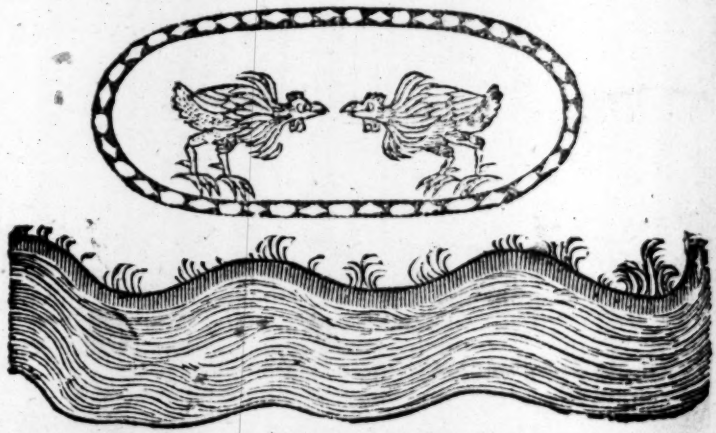
The *Frenchmens* VVonder;

OR,

The Battle of the Birds,

1676 Relating that on the 26*th*. of *Feb*. last, about 9 in the morning were ſeen between *Dole* and *Salins* in *France*, a moſt incredible number of Birds, who by their multitude darkened the Sky; after having for ſome time, as it were skirmiſhed together in great confuſion, they ſeperated into two bodies; and after moſt horrible cries, they engaged againſt each other with ſuch fury, that ſeveral thouſands were faln dead to the Earth; ſome ſmothered with moſt of their feathers off, and others all bloody and torn; Theſe Birds were of a hundred ſeveral ſorts, of ſeveral ſizes, and ſeveral colours. Thoſe which were moſt Numerous weighed four or five pounds a piece; their claws were like thoſe of *Indian* Hens, Nibs crooked like Parrots, and their feathers of an Aſh colour; about 500 Paces of Ground were covered with theſe dead carkaſſes to a mans height. Beſides ſeveral Thouſands that were found diſperſed here and there: Inſomuch that it being feared that the Air might be infected by them, Pioneers were ſent from *Dole* to bury them.

To the Tune of, *In Summer time.* With Allowance, Roger L'Eſtrange.



COme give attention young and old,
whilſt in my ſtory I proceed,
Strange wonders daily we behold,
yet paſs them over without heed.
From places ſtrange, by Sea and Land,
and from all parts beneath the Sun;
Of wonders great we underſtand,
which by the Lord on high are done.
Yet few doth lay it unto heart,
nor to themſelves the ſame apply,
Or from their ſins ſtrive to depart,
though threatn'd judgements are ſo nigh
But at the ſame they make a ſcoff,
which are for warnings daily ſent,
To tell them they ſhall be cut off,
except they of their ſins repent.

'Tis known that pride, and drunkeneſs,
and ſwearing, doth ſo much abound,
Men are ſo bent to wickedneſs,
that ſoul and body they confound.
Which makes the Lord above to ſend
ſuch ſigns our ſpirits to abate;
That we our lives may all amend,
by what hath happened of late.
Near unto Dole in fertile France,
a wonder ſtrange was lately ſeen,
Which doth fames Trumpet ſo advance,
becauſe the like hath never been.
Great multitudes of Birds appear'd,
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The like whereof was never heard,
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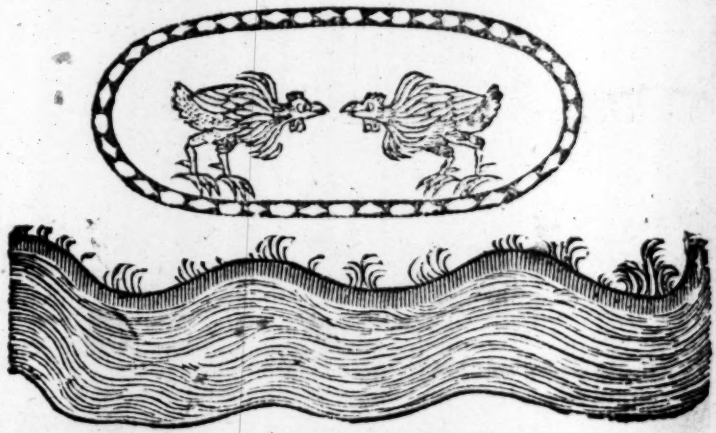

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THe people stood amaz'd to see,
that wondrous sight which did ap-pear,
Or what the sad event might be,
why such strange Fowls was gathered there.

For sometimes they were seen to fight,
and skirmish in confused wise,
To tug and pull, to claw and bite,
sometimes to fall, and sometimes rise.

At length as it were by consent,
into two parties they devide;
As if it were two Armies bent,
to fight it out on either side.

And then with fearful hideous cries,
each party did the other dare,
The like was never seen with eyes,
how they proclaimed open war.

At last each other did engage,
with fury great on either side,
Both parties being in a rage,
like two brave armies in their pride.

Most fiercely they did fight it out,
whilst thousands to the ground did fall;
They were so furious and so stout,
they freely ventured life and all.

Their bodies mangled, rent, and torn,
upon the earth most thick did lye,
So that the child that's yet unborn,
may wonder at this prodigy.

At length their forces being spent,
those that were left, away did flie,
But whence they came, or whither went,
there's no one ever could descry.

These birds which did the battle fight,
were of a hundred sundry sorts,
Of several colours and of shape,
as doth appear by all reports.

The greatest of their bodies were,
of four or five pounds weight each one;
As to the people did appear,
which view'd them over as 'tis known.

Their claws like those of Indian hens,
their crooked nibs, like Parrots just;
Their feathers of an Ash colour,
if we may the relation trust.

Five hundred paces, as 'tis said,
of ground were covered with the dead,
Unto the height of any man,
besides some thousands scattered.

The people being sore afraid,
their bodies should infect the air,
Sent Pioneers to bury them,
which is a thing most strange and rare.

Thus was this bloody combate past,
within the sight of many a one;
Who at the wonder stood aghast,
for to behold what there was shown.

What is the meaning of the same,
there's none doth know but God above,
Then let us fear his holy name,
and live in concord, peace and love.

For cruel wars, and bloody strife,
doth cause great ruine at the last:
Then let us lead a holy life,
and pardon crave for what is past.

FINIS.

Printed for F. Coles, T. Vere, J. Wright, and J. Clarke.